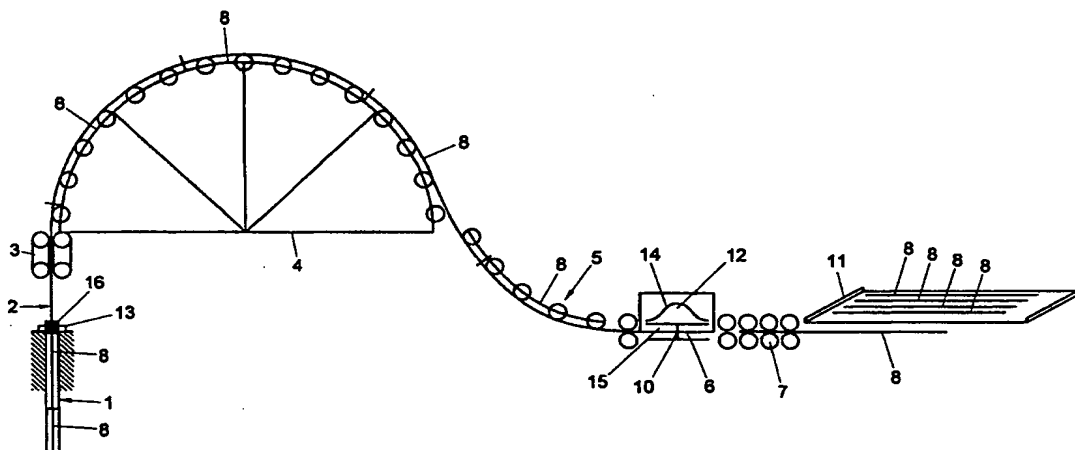




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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| <b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> :</b><br><b>E21B 19/22, 19/20</b>   | <b>A1</b> | <b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 00/43631</b><br><b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 27 July 2000 (27.07.00)   |
| <b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/NL99/00366<br><b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 11 June 1999 (11.06.99)<br><b>(30) Priority Data:</b><br>1011069 19 January 1999 (19.01.99) NL<br><b>(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US):</b> WELL ENGINEERING PARTNERS B.V. [NL/NL]; Tynaarlosestraat 68, NL-9481 AE Vries (NL). B.J. SERVICES INTERNATIONAL B.V. [NL/NL]; Vasco da Gamastraat 27, NL-7825 VJ Emmen (NL).<br><b>(72) Inventors; and</b><br><b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> KOSTER, Egbert [NL/NL]; Groenkampen 68, NL-9407 RG Assen (NL). KOCH, Kasper [NL/NL]; Wilhelminalaan 44, NL-2625 KH Delft (NL). VAN ONNA, Martinus, Bernardus, Stefanus [NL/NL]; Oostdijk 46, NL-4675 RE St. Philipsland (NL). ALTMANN, Klaus [DE/DE]; Röntgenstrasse 9, D-48465 Schüttorf (DE). BAKKER, Thomas, Walburgis [NL/NL]; Tynaarlosestraat 68, NL-9481 AE Vries (NL). PLATJE, Berend Harm [NL/NL]; Breedenborg 2, NL-9502 VT Stadskanaal (NL). |           | <b>(74) Agent:</b> OTTEVANGERS, S.U.; Vereenigde, Nieuwe Parklaan 97, NL-2587 BN The Hague (NL).<br><b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).<br><br><b>Published</b><br><i>With international search report.</i> |

**(54) Title:** PIPE HANDLING APPARATUS AND METHOD**(57) Abstract**

For introducing a tube (2; 52; 102) into a borehole (1) in the ground, the tube (2; 52; 102) is composed by adding tube parts (8; 58) to an end thereof at a location horizontally spaced from the well head (13; 63; 113) and axially travels to the well along a path including a curve. The joining takes place at a relatively easily accessible location, where the risk of injury due to large moving parts is smaller. The radius of curvature of the tube in the curved parts of the path can be relatively large, so that plastic deformation of the tube remains limited. Separate tube parts (8; 58) can be transported more easily than a completed tube in a coiled configuration. Further, a method for removing a tube from a borehole in the lithosphere and an installation for carrying out the proposed method are disclosed as well.